

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUDAPE 01182 250859Z

17

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 PM-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02

/068 W

----- 040884

R 250622Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3063

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 1182

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PINS, VS

SUBJ: AMERICANS CAPTURED IN BAN ME THUOT

REF: (A) STATE 091715, (B) SAIGON 5273

1. POLOFF CALLED ON ACTING DIRECTOR OF MFA VIETNAM SECTION APRIL 23 TO REQUEST THAT GOH AGAIN APPROACH PRG IN ATTEMPT TO GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT AND RELEASE OF AMERICANS CAPTURED AT BAN ME THUOT. MFA WAS TOLD THAT U.S. HAS EVIDENCE THAT AMERICANS ARE BEING HELD PRISONERS IN STOCKADE NEAR DUC CO IN PLEIKU PROVINCE.

2. MFA OFFICIAL SANDOR JOLSVAI WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT U.S. HAD SUCH INFORMATION. HE APPEARED SYMPATHETIC AND PROMISED TO REQUEST PERMISSION OF HIS SUPERVISORS FOR "INFORMAL APPROACH" TO PRG. SAID THAT USE OF ICCS CHANNEL WOULD PROBABLY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE BUT THAT GOH'S DIPLOMATIC CHANNEL MIGHT ELICIT MORE INFORMATION. JOLSVAI AGREED THAT HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF CASE PROVIDED GOOD TEST OF PRG INTENTIONS IN DEALING WITH NONCOMBATANTS. SAID HE WOULD INFORM EMBASSY ASAP RE RESULTS OF GOH INQUIRY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUDAPE 01182 250859Z

3. IN FRANK DISCUSSION RE PARIS AGREEMENTS, JOLSVAI

SAID THAT U.S. HAD BEEN TOO NAIVE IN DEALING WITH ASIAN COMMUNIST PARTIES; U.S. SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SURPRISED BY NVA AND PRG "FLEXIBLE INTERPRETATION" (VIOLATIONS) OF AGREEMENTS. HE ADDED THAT "WASHINGTON SHOULD NOT HAVE EXPECTED HUNGARY AND POLAND TO ACT AS NEUTRALS IN INTERPRETING ICCS MANDATE PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THEIR INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS".

4. JOLSVAI SAID GOH SEES CONTINUED ROLE FOR ICCS, EVEN AFTER PRG ASSUMES COMPLETE CONTROL OVER SVN. SAID ICCS COULD REPORT TO WORLD CONCERNING HOLDING OF ELECTIONS, TREATMENT OF POW'S, AND "IMPLEMENTATION OF PARIS AGREEMENTS".

5. DURING COURTESY CALL SAME DAY ON AMBASSADOR VARKONYI, CHIEF, FONOFF DEPT V, AMBASSADOR RAISED MATTER OF AMERICANS CAPTURED AT BAN ME THUOT. REFERRING TO HIS RECENT CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT, AMBASSADOR SAID THAT WELFARE AND SAFETY OF THESE AMERICANS VERY MUCH ON PRESIDENT'S MIND. PRESIDENT VIEWED CASE FROM HUMANITARIAN STANDPOINT AND THOUGHT OTHER COUNTRIES SHOULD HELP OUT IN LIGHT OF THIS CONSIDERATION. AMBASSADOR SAID HE WISHED TO CONVEY CONTINUING USG INTEREST IN SECURING RETURN OF THESE TRAPPED AMERICANS AND HOPED GOH WOULD ASSIST IN DETERMINING THEIR LOCATION AND WELL-BEING. VARKONYI SIDESTEPED ISSUE SAYING HIS OFFICE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR VIETNAM AFFAIRS. HE WAS SURE, HOWEVER, GOH WOULD DO WHAT IT COULD TO ASSIST, ADDING THAT AMBASSADOR, IF HE WISHED, WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW ATTENTION TO PRESIDENT'S VIEWS ON MISSING AMERICANS TO HIGHER FONOFF AUTHORITIES IN NEXT FEW DAYS OF CALLS.
MCAULIFFE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CITIZEN PROTECTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUDAPE01182
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750145-0831
From: BUDAPEST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750414/aaaaamjk.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DPW
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 091715, 75 SAIGON 5273
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by buchandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICANS CAPTURED IN BAN ME THUOT
TAGS: CASC, PINS, VS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006